



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RIGHTS PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY

NARPA TO PRESENT FALL WEBINAR SERIES

In 2020, NARPA planned to hold its annual convention in Portland, Oregon. Due to restrictions related to Covid-19, we have decided against an in-person conference and instead we will offer four webinars over the coming months, specifically related to current events. Topics addressed will include how we protect people labeled with psychiatric disabilities from infection during the pandemic; how NARPA is working to support Black Lives Matter and to eliminate race-based disparities in services; discussions of police violence in communities of color and people with disabilities; and more.

Our second webinar entitled "Olmstead in the Age of COVID" is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 1:30 p.m. EST. Registration information is below. The webinar is free.

Description of Presentation: People confined in psychiatric hospitals and other congregate settings now face significant risks of contracting COVID-19. Yet the pandemic has slowed down discharges and created new challenges in community service systems. This presentation by two distinguished civil rights advocates and attorneys will feature a discussion of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) community integration mandate and how it is faring in the era of COVID. We will highlight the need for emergency measures to reduce the census of psychiatric hospitals and other psychiatric institutions to enable distancing within these facilities, to accelerate discharges, and ensure that people with psychiatric disabilities are offered community-based services and housing, and to impose adequate COVID safety measures for those who remain institutionalized.

Presenters: [Kathy Flaherty, J.D.](#), Executive Director, Connecticut Legal Rights Project (CLRP); and [Jennifer Mathis, J.D.](#), Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy at the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Since 2015, [Kathy Flaherty](#) has served as Executive Director of the [Connecticut Legal Rights Project](#) (CLRP), a statewide non-profit agency providing legal services to low income individuals with mental health conditions residing in hospitals or the community. Kathy spent 13 years as a Staff Attorney at [Statewide Legal Services of CT, Inc.](#), the centralized intake hotline for all Connecticut legal services programs. She combines her personal experience as a recipient of mental health services and her legal background to speak to issues affecting those living with mental health conditions. Kathy currently is a member of the steering committee of the [Connecticut Cross Disability Lifespan Alliance](#), an alliance of people of all ages with all disabilities who pursue a unified agenda in support of building a great life in the community.

[Jennifer Mathis](#) is Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy at the [Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law](#). The Center is a national non-profit legal advocacy organization that advances the rights of people with mental disabilities. Jennifer's work focuses primarily on the Americans with Disabilities (ADA) and the Medicaid rights of adults and children with disabilities. Jennifer uses litigation as well as legislative and administrative policy advocacy to promote equal opportunity for people with disabilities in all areas of life. She played a key role in coordinating strategy and briefing when the Olmstead case was heard by the Supreme Court, and has litigated numerous community integration cases before and after. She has been at the Bazelon Center since 1999, except for one year serving as Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the [U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) (EEOC).

Please follow instructions below to register for the webinar. Also check our website at www.narpa.org and the NARPA Facebook group page for details about the next three workshops scheduled this Fall. Stay tuned for announcements about our plans for 2021!

You are invited to NARPA's Zoom webinar.

When: October 1, at 1:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: "Olmstead in the Age of COVID"

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_V5GDwwdbSxyjUGUUnJJeYA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar on October 1.



To access the recording of our first webinar, "[Trauma Translated](#)," visit our web site at www.narpa.org. (Coming soon.)

NARPA is proud to announce that the presenter for the first of its 2020 Webinar series (Sept. 2, 2020) is **Nyamuon "Moon" Nguany Machar**. Moon was the recipient of NARPA's Pearl Johnson Award in 2017, and the Bazelon Center's Emerging Young Advocates Award in 2019. Moon works with [Disability Rights Maine](#) as a cultural strategist. Working with the ACE program in the Army National Guard, Moon was dismayed at how service members who experience terrible things are then labeled as "mentally ill," leading to her passion for trauma prevention and recovery. Moon emigrated to the U.S. as a child from South Sudan, and she uses her experience as a refugee to inform her work with immigrants, people with psychiatric disabilities, and other trauma survivors.

Of her presentation entitled "**Trauma Translated**" Moon says, "Apart from policy development and assessment, there is a responsibility and dire need for stakeholders to carve deliberate space for communities to feel heard, validated and included in the formations of and considerations in the mental health system. Through this workshop we aim to highlight and give back the narrative to disproportionate and Minority communities around the harms that come when systems do not authentically connect with them on grass root levels."